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Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The Fifth Committee, by its decision contained in document A/59/641, decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26 (subsequently resolution 59/260), the additional amount of $1,092,400 would be required and requested the Assembly to appropriate that amount against the contingency fund for the biennium 2004-2005, to be used should there be a shortage of voluntary contributions for the functioning of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in 2005. The amount of $546,200, representing 50 per cent of this appropriation, has been transferred to the INSTRAW Trust Fund in order to provide the Institute with sufficient resources in the first six months of 2005.

It is anticipated that the resources currently available in the INSTRAW Trust Fund will allow the operations of the Institute to continue until the end of 2005 with a projected closing balance of $472,160. It is also estimated that $1,314,352 would be required to sustain the Institute's operations in 2006.

* A/60/150.

** The submission of the present report has been timed to reflect the latest available information for assessing the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 59/260, on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to provide its full support for the current efforts to revitalize the Institute and, in this regard, to ensure that the Institute would be able to continue functioning for a period of at least one year.

2. Before the adoption of the aforementioned resolution, the Fifth Committee, by its decision contained in document A/59/641, decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, as an exceptional measure, additional requirements of $1,092,400 would arise under section 9 of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The Committee requested the Assembly to appropriate that amount against the contingency fund, to be used should there be a shortage of voluntary contributions for the functioning of the Institute in 2005. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, as a matter of priority, early during the main part of its sixtieth session on the overall financial situation of the Institute. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

II. Financial situation of the Institute

3. It was anticipated in the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26 (A/C.5/59/16) that the estimated INSTRAW Trust Fund balance would amount to $91,300 as at 31 December 2004 and that these resources would be sufficient for financing INSTRAW operations, including the salaries of 10 posts (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 3 P-2/1 and 5 General Service) and related operating expenses through January 2005, and that an additional amount of $1,092,400 would be required to maintain the Institute to the end of 2005.

4. During the United Nations pledging conference for development activities held in New York on 11 November 2004, $13,400 was pledged to the INSTRAW Trust Fund for 2005. As at 31 August 2005, the total unpaid pledges to the INSTRAW Trust Fund amounted to $35,550.

5. The available balance of the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 1 January 2005 amounted to $959,675, comprising the amount of $546,200, representing 50 per cent of the subvention of $1,092,400 approved by the General Assembly for 2005, and the net balance of operations for 2004 of $413,475, resulting from reduced expenditures and additional voluntary contributions in the amount of $92,065 received in November and December 2004.

6. For the period 1 January to 31 August 2005, additional income received in the Trust Fund amounted to $696,185, comprising voluntary contributions of $691,295 and miscellaneous income of $4,890. It should be noted, in this regard, that the largest voluntary contribution of $604,400 was received on 15 August 2005.

7. As regards extrabudgetary (non-core) project funding, $30,000 was received in 2005 from the United Nations Population Fund for the implementation of a project on the media campaign to defend women's reproductive and sexual rights. The Institute is also expected to receive, in the near future, more than $500,000 from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to fund a three-year project entitled

"Strengthening governance with a gender focus and the participation of women at the local level".

8. For the period 1 January to 31 August 2005, the Institute has maintained a complement of nine staff (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 2 P-2/1 and 5 General Service). Expenditures incurred during the period 1 January to 31 August 2005, projected requirements for the period 1 September to 31 December 2005 and projected total 2005 requirements by budget line are shown in table 1.

Table 1
Expenditures of the Institute for the period 1 January to 31 August 2005, projected requirements for the period 1 September to 31 December 2005 and projected total 2005 requirements

(United States dollars)

	1 January-31 August 2005	*1 September-31 December 2005*	*Total 2005*
Staff and other personnel costs	435 197	234 303	669 500
Consultants and experts	111 557	78 443	190 000
Travel	70 657	26 943	97 600
Contractual services	58 466	36 934	95 400
Operating expenses	37 328	12 572	49 900
Acquisitions	23 963	11 237	35 200
Other expenses	22 324	23 776	46 100
Total	**759 492**	**424 208**	**1 183 700**

9. The INSTRAW Trust Fund balance as at 31 August 2005 is estimated at $896,368. It is anticipated that expenditures for the period September through December 2005 would amount to $424,208. As before, these estimates include staff salaries, calculated on the basis of full incumbency of the existing nine posts and the related operating expenses for the period 1 January to 31 December 2005. On this basis, the projected closing balance as at 31 December 2005 would amount to $472,160, as shown in table 2.

Table 2
Estimated financial situation of the Institute in 2005

(United States dollars)

Opening balance[a]	959 675
Income received	
Government contributions	691 295
Miscellaneous income	4 890
Subtotal	**696 185**
Total income	**1 655 860**

Expenditures (1 January-31 August)	(759 492)
Fund balance as at 31 August	896 368
Projected cost of operations (1 September-31 December)	(424 208)
Projected surplus (deficit) as at 31 December	472 160
Projected closing balance	**472 160**

[a] Includes $546,200, representing 50 per cent of the total 2005 subvention of $1,092,400.

10. Consequently, it is estimated at this stage that the Institute will have adequate resources to function until the end of 2005 and no complementary funds will be required in this regard.

11. In the proposed operational budget for 2006, submitted to the Executive Board at its second session, on 1 June 2005, INSTRAW estimated the 2006 core requirements at $1,314,352. As matters stand at this point, funds to cover these requirements in full have neither been pledged nor received. Under the circumstances, the General Assembly may need to consider the future viability of the Institute.

III. Conclusion

12. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the financial situation of INSTRAW and take such action as it deems appropriate.**